MTAC Focus Group Session Notes
Wednesday, May 20, 2015

MAIL PREPARATION AND ENTRY (OPERATIONS)
Linda Malone, USPS VP-Network Operations
Robert Schimek, MTAC Industry Leader, Entry & Preparation

MTAC Industry Leaders Panel:
Sharon Harrison, First Class Mail
John Stark, Periodical Mail
Wanda Senne, Standard Mail
John Medeiros, Package Services

Service Hub Update

- **Phase I Complete**
    - **46 Active Hubs became effective on April 1st**
    - **Includes 4 pilot sites activated in January**
- **Phase II Sites Selected**
    - **Approximately 166 additional sites will become live on July 1st**
- **Work Group 159 Officially Sunset**
    - **Recommendations made**
    - **Resolution Statement completed and posted in MITS**

Recommendations:
- **USPS to review remaining former SCFs for eligibility to become a Service Hub**
- **Identify additional Service Hubs for July update cycle**
- **Add eligibility for DSCF discount and preparation requirements to DMM**
- **Create standard labeling list for Service Hubs**
    - **This item transferred to User Group 9 – Presort Reference Data**

Bundle Breakage Update
- **#1 cause of machine stoppage on the APPS/APBS is due to single pieces loose in the machine**
- **Actual nesting errors have been reduced**
- **Since November actual breakage has been increasing**
- **Bundles secured with <u>string</u> experience catastrophic breakage on automation**

- Bundles secured with <u>rubber bands</u> experience double-digit breakage

Steps taken _to reduce breakage_
- Modified APPS/APBS bundle process
- Bundle removal device modified
- Exposed bolts in universal dumper modified
  - Created bundles utilizing industry standard equipment
  - Conducted controlled testing on different bundle packaging

SPSS Machine Update
- Package volumes expected to continue growing at a rapid pace
  - Significant growth in volume in the network will put tremendous strain on existing infrastructure
- Need to prepare now for current and future network needs
  - Leverage availability of additional commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) mail processing equipment (MPE) currently in deployment

Progress to date
- Purchased five (5) SPSS sorters for packages weighing 20 pounds or less to evaluate sorter usage in different processing environments
- Primarily a pilot test and evaluation effort to assess potential future use in supporting growing package volume needs
- Enhanced requirements are being developed and they will be included in the purchase of 26 additional SPSS machines

Engineering Update
- High Speed Flats Feeder (HSFF)
- SAMP Sorter R&D

ACTION ITEMS
- Share the data on the construction of the perfect bundle and the testing data of the perfect bundle.
- CSA communications
- Review the service performance and address questions about the lack of predictability.